12/27/68

Memo of phone conversation with Kerry Thornley last night.

When Gary Schoener told me that the call Vince Salandria was deliberately led to believe was from Dave Lifton, in which he was asked to undertake Thornley's defense, was really from Ed Horsey, I decided I should call Kerry because of the other calls, some to me, apparently made in his name.

He has a new phone, under Sara Thornley. It is 834-0933. The address, also new, is 2803½ Merlin Ave., Tampa. The old address was 726 S. 51st St.

He apparently had heard that this call was by Horsey, not by Lifton. He denied making any of the calls to me, or thosexto Sylvia Meagher Horsey had told me he presumed Kerry made and charged to his phone.

We then discussed other things, if it can ever be said that one has a discussion with him. Gary, who is working on his doctorate in psychology, found him fascinating, like in a lab. There was the overused interjection of "man", an emotional use of pseudo-scientific terms as though he knew what he was talking about, and he gradually reached a crescendo on uncontrolable, irrational anger that led him to hang up.

He began by saying that while he did not agree with me, he did respect me and believes me serious and of honest intent. He concluded with exactly the opposite. He began by denying he had ever pinned a red label on Oswald, then admitted this is the use to which his Commission testimony was put. Of his articles in the men's magazine, he said they were not written by him, that he had signed away all rights in the book contract, that they do not represent his beliefs - and that he never filed any protest or complaint of any kind after the first appeared. He acknowledged I reflect them accurately, as I do the Commission use of his testimony, and he acknowledges he can produce no disclaimer. It is his position this would be pointless.

He denies his lawyer took the initiative in going to the paper, says that Naum got in touch with him for confirmation of a rumor. He says he is not paying Levine, who has taken this as a "charity" case. Which makes me wonder what Sylvia Meagher is paying for when she says she is helping defray his "legal" expenses.

Garrison is a Nazi, like Hitler. He defends Ferrie, actually, on his threat to kill the President (this part is what led to his hanging up). He finds my writing dishonest when I ridicule the FBI retailing of Ferrie's description of this threat as a "colloquial expression". He was firm and almost passionate in his defense of Ferrie. Not that he knew him; that was immaterial.

He says he has copies of letters I have written (he calls them "poison pen"), but refused to specify any error, save what he regards as an injustice to Clint Bolton. I challenged him to cite error in my writing about him and he did not. He claims I misquoted him, but does not specify, as he cannot. This is in apparent reference to the business of the Oswald security clearance.

He denies he has any plans to sue me or ever did, which is contrary to Lifton, verbally and in writing. I told him I did not know what Garrison had him charged for, knowing only that it is perjury, not having read any of it and having had nothing to do with it. He said he'd send me a copy of the indictment. I told him it was other things that interested me and he went no further with this.

He comes through as sincerely insane.